The Point

FREE
October 10, 2008
Issue No. 3

Fitchburg State College's student newspaper

FSC FILE PHOTO

Skating with the Fitchburg State Falcons can bring out the best in a hockey player.

FSC players set to go pro

By Andrew Jones

Two Falcon captains from last year's hockey team are skating down a road that most are not fortunate enough to reach.

Stephen Schofield (Valley Village, CA.) and Devan McConnell (Lake Stevens, WA) are both heading out to play professional hockey.

"Anyone that has ever played hockey has the same dream - to play professionally. For me to be able to reach that dream is unbelievable," Schofield said.

"For me to be able to reach that dream is unbelievable."

- Stephen Schofield

For Schofield, it took real dedication to reach that dream.

He endured a groin injury that erased his name from the Fitchburg roster sheet his senior year. The injury left a bad taste in Schofield's mouth, and he decided to come back for a year of grad school, with a year of eligibility in his pocket.

Schofield's fate has led him to a tryout with the Mississippi Sea Wolves in the East Coast Hockey League, a level that truly is something to talk about.

Schofield knew that he didn't want his career to be over, and when his agent called him this summer with a tryout, he didn't think twice.

He packed his bags from his home in California, and has returned to Fitchburg to train with his old team to prepare.

McConnell, meanwhile, put his name all over the Falcon record books.

Over his four years with the team, the Falcon goaltender climbed up the charts for wins and save-percentage.

Not only was he the team captain his senior year, but he was

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PHOTO BY KAREN MANN

The Rabbit Hole in downtown Fitchburg offers a window into the world of books, music, and community spirit.

Rabbit Hole: It's not just for Alice

By Bria Sullivan

Downtown Fitchburg has a new place for young adults to hang out.

The city recently welcomed a new business, the Rabbit Hole, which is eager to welcome FSC students.

A bookstore with an ambitious aim to help revitalize the local arts and entertainment scene, the Rabbit Hole features two floors of used and new books in an array of genres, as well as posters, artwork, comics, vinyl records and curios.

Owner Sam Montgomery says he brought the Rabbit Hole to 805 Main St. in Fitchburg because he and his business partners became aware of the developing downtown.

They had come across a Boston Globe article about Lisa Wong and the City of Fitchburg, and decided that it was just the place to be for a place like the Rabbit Hole. The Rabbit Hole in Fitchburg is actually the second Rabbit Hole on Earth – the first

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What's in a name?

By Matthew Tomasetti

Almost a year ago, the presidents of Massachusetts' nine state colleges came together at the Board of Higher Education in an attempt to add the word "University" to the names of their institutions.

Today, some students at Fitchburg State College are wondering if their diplomas will say "Fitchburg State University." It seems that no one knows for sure.

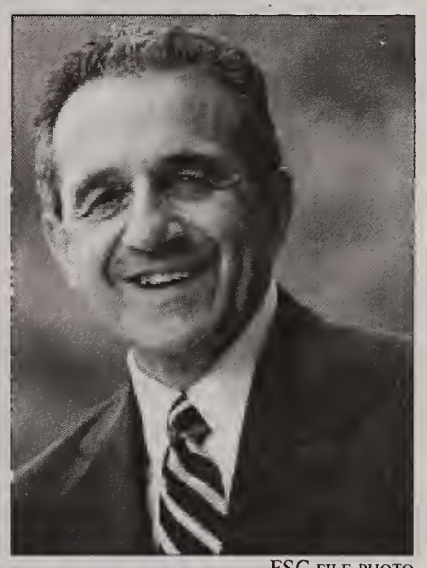
Despite the lack of solid information, rumors are flying up and down the halls about when, or even if, this change will happen.

"I heard that's the reason for all the construction," says senior Mark Maggio. "If the school looks better from the road, people will have more respect for it."

So what are the facts?

"We are pushing for legislation that would give a state college the choice of adopting the university name," says Fitchburg State College President Robert Antonucci, who is also chairman of the Council of Presidents for the nine state colleges.

"We have created a subcommittee to study the status of the potential change and report back to the other presidents."



FSC FILE PHOTO

Robert Antonucci

While he says a change could be possible as early as 2010, it would be more realistic to look at 2011 or 2012.

"It's a good idea," Antonucci said. "Forty-six other states have already done it. I never want to put our students at a disadvantage, and we would be at a disadvantage if we didn't do it."

He adds, "I would like to see it happen, but if the students would rather not do it, then we won't."

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STAFF PHOTO BY BRIA SULLIVAN

With shelves full of books, the Rabbit Hole is poised to bring people to downtown Fitchburg.

Rabbit Hole welcomes drop-ins

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being in Great Plains, Canada in the Alberta area.

"We were looking for a downtown that was kind of in the upswing," Montgomery says of his decision to locate in Fitchburg.

"The business model is, you go into downtowns and smaller-sized cities that still have some art galleries and some halfway decent restaurants and bars."

Montgomery adds that his business experience with Fitchburg was pleasant.

"City Hall was really helpful. They gave us a tour and they were really helpful with all the paperwork and they seemed excited about having a bookstore downtown."

The Rabbit Hole acquires its collection in a variety of ways: It buys used items from estate sales, accepts donations or trades from the community, and orders new items as well. Montgomery encourages customers to donate or trade their old books in exchange for store credit.

"We were looking for a downtown that was kind of in the upswing"

- Sam Montgomery

Montgomery says his goal is simple: "Keep the store busy and [hope that] the store attracts more stuff like this so downtown becomes more and more of a destination spot."

With that in mind, Montgomery encourages people to "just come into the store," even if they don't plan to buy anything.

Montgomery also envisions the Rabbit Hole hosting community events like poetry nights, open-mic nights, book signings, gallery shows and meetings.

He hopes the community will feel comfortable gathering in and around his store.

He is also all for community advertisements being hung up at the Rabbit Hole to promote community events, and is willing to offer his space up to students and the community for those purposes.

According to Montgomery, "We're pretty much very flexible here and we're willing to make changes to our hours and things like that based upon what we find the community needs."

The Rabbit Hole is open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. Further information is available by calling (978) 345-0040.

Falcons shoot for pro spots

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also the off-ice trainer. When he talked, the team listened.

"Playing on a hockey team is like a family, or being in a relationship," McConnell said.

"Once college was coming to a close, I knew I had to start again somewhere else. I couldn't just stop playing or let it go.

"The opportunity was there, so I took it."

McConnell will be stopping pucks next year for the Texas Brahmas of the Central Hockey League.

With a contract already signed, McConnell is in full preparation mode for the upcoming season.

Though both players are heading off to the pros, they say they will never forget their Fitchburg roots.

In talking about the most memorable moment in their college hockey careers, both pointed out the same game that occurred just last season.

The Falcons were headed into the playoffs with the eighth seed; they were forced to play No. 1 seed Curry College on Curry's home ice.

Although the odds were against the Falcons, this night was different.

The Falcons jumped all over their foes from Curry, and stunned them with a 7-2 victory.

The Curry crowd was silent, as some college careers ended.

"When we were all jumping up and down together in the locker room, it was an unbelievable feeling," Schofield said.

"I have never felt anything like it before. It made coming back for an extra year even more special."

In following the road to the pros, Schofield and McConnell both chose to chase their hockey dreams over jobs in their respective fields.

Their looming entrance into the "real world" has been postponed for now.

FSC coaches keep coming back for more

BY KEVIN SOLDANI

Think about the ideal coaching staff for your football team. You want people who are experienced, who have played the game and know it well. And wouldn't you want your staff to come in already knowing the people and the organization, people ready to hit the ground running?

Fitchburg State College's head coach, Paul McGonagle, gets to have that organization.

The 2008 FSC football coaching staff features seven former Falcon players and a native of Fitchburg. McGonagle believes that the coaches' Fitchburg experience is something that will help the program.

"Having coaches that know the players, know the program, really helps everyone put a better effort in. These guys are young and really care about seeing the program succeed," McGonagle said.

Some members of the staff graduated years ago and worked at other football programs before coming back to FSC. Others, such as Nick Robbins, completed their educations as recently as last year.

"It is always nice to start someplace where you feel comfortable," Robbins said. "I decided to coach here because I know the system and the high expectations. I knew if I stayed in Fitchburg I would be able to learn more, not just the position I played."

McGonagle feels that coaches such as Robbins are great assets to the coaching staff because they serve as strong role models for the younger students and provide a familiar face for the veteran players.

Frank McDonald is a Fitchburg native who played college football at UMass. "I know how much people love football in this area, just from my high school days," McDonald says. "If we could get that kind of feeling for college football that would be fantastic." McGonagle believes that bringing McDonald to the program was a good move because of the success he had playing in the college level.

" I tried to recruit him when I first started coaching," McGonagle says. "I knew the intensity he played with and know he is going to coach with that same level."

He continues, " I am excited with this staff of coaches. I know they are going to put the work in and the players will respond."

FSC FILE PHOTO

Players and coaches form a lasting bond on the football team.

University? Possibly

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While the students will have a say in the change, they will not be the only ones consulted.

Faculty and alumni will also be involved in the decision.

What would the new name be?

"Some possible candidates are Fitchburg State University or Mass. State University at Fitchburg," says Antonucci.

"A name doesn't change much. We will still be the same school. One thing it does change is the competitiveness."

He continues, "If the legislation is passed, the first step we take will be solely for branding and marketing purposes. We have not studied any academic changes that might happen.

"The second step we would take is to ask permission [of the Board of Higher Education] to be able to award doctorate degrees. We are looking to the benefit of our students.

"If it doesn't happen, we will still be as good of a school as we have always been. We'll be as competitive as we have ever been. We should keep that in mind."

Latin comes alive with new program

By Courtney Gustafson

"Nulla copia pecuniae avarum virum satiat."

Don't know what that says? Maybe you should check out Fitchburg State College's new Latin program.

Although Latin was once taught at Fitchburg State, it has been years since the course was offered. This year, the Latin language returns to Fitchburg.

"Providing Latin is a fundamental tool to be competitive and get into graduate school," said Dr. Daniel Sarefield, who is teaching the new Latin course.

Sarefield said he began looking into teaching a Latin course when students in his World Civilizations and Medieval Studies classes showed an interest in the subject.

"I had more than 20 students approach me about offering a Latin course," Sarefield said.

"Providing Latin is a fundamental tool to be competitive and get into graduate school."

- Daniel Sarefield

Initially, he said, the administration was skeptical about the class attracting enough students.

"I'm very grateful they gave it a chance," Sarefield said.

The class currently has 24 enrolled students; about half of them have had some previous Latin instruction.

Some students are taking the course as a review of basic Latin grammar and vocabulary, while others have never had Latin instruction and are taking the course as an introduction to the language.

Sarefield said he plans to continue teaching Latin basics to the group for four semesters, and then to begin again with a new group of students.

"I'd like to turn out groups of kids who really know the fundamentals of Latin," said Sarefield.

Sarefield said he would also like to offer a course in Latin readings for any students who make it through the two years of Latin fundamentals and still show an interest in the language.

"I'll continue to teach it indefinitely, as long as there are students showing an interest," said Sarefield.

Students with previous Latin instruction are encouraged to join the program in the coming semesters. Sarefield hopes to see high schools teaching students the fundamentals of the language so that incoming freshmen can join the program in coming years.

"It would be great to have local high schools acting as a feeder system for the program," said Sarefield.

"Kids who are already proficient in the basics could jump right into the more advanced courses."

Although the program is starting small, Sarefield said he sees great potential for his group of Latin students and a bright future for the program in general.

"We'll see where we are at the end of next year," said Sarefield, "and the program will continue from there."

Students with questions about Fitchburg State College's new Latin program are encouraged to contact Dr. Sarefield at dsarefield@fsc.edu.

Poetry earns applause

By Hannah Yelin

Did you know that, here at Fitchburg State College, we have an award-winning poet in our midst? His name is Ian Williams, and you might know him better as a professor in the English department.

His first collection of poetry, titled "You Know Where You Are," will be published by Wolsak and Wynn sometime in 2010.

Williams presented some of his poetry last month for a program in the Center for Teaching and Learning. The poems he presented (including the title poem) will all be included in his collection.

He began his presentation by commenting that it was almost like a funeral, seeing everyone who was important to him - fellow faculty members, past and present students, friends of his - as he looked out from the podium. He also remarked that much of his poetry is sad, and joked a bit about that fact, saying that it was normal if anyone in the audience felt like killing themselves after hearing his poems.

With that, the presentation began, and he started to read his first poem, "Apology":

"Before the photographer shoots me

he shows me a portrait of a woman I know. The woman

is wearing a wife beater, the background turns her hairline,

her jaw, under her cheeks, into a shore."

As he continued to read that poem, along with all of the others he read during the 45-minute presentation, the room was silent, save for a ringing cell phone at one point.

With his teaching, poet Ian Williams shines a light on students' talent.

Some of his poems were traditional, spoken-word poems, while others were non-traditional in that they included music, singing, videos, and the like.

The music and videos were part of a PowerPoint presentation that he had prepared to go along with his reading. The applause at the end was loud and long, and a few people even gave him a standing ovation.

Regarding his influences, Williams says his favorite poet is Margaret Atwood. "She's tough and she's direct, and she's not always nice, and she demands that you trust her," says Williams. He says that speaking in front of everyone was odd, but that it turned out well in the end.

As for what he would change about the presentation, he says that he wishes that he could have "somehow [divided] myself so that I were speaking and at the same time not present."

Fall brings festive fun to New England

By Stephanie Lucci

With autumn in New England comes apple picking, cider-drinking, hay rides, pie contests, pumpkin carvings, and much more. What's best is that many of these fall activities are inexpensive and close by.

Want to get away from campus? How about the always-popular Applefest at Wachusett Mountain in Princeton? There are four chances to attend: Oct. 18, 19, 25, and 26. The admission fee is $9; activities include live music, pie-eating contests, hay rides, a climbing wall, and the skyride.

"On the 18th and 19th there will be real live monster trucks, as well as German music and beer," said Communications Manager Kaitlyn Driscoll. "Also, if you bring a pumpkin pie you can get in for free."

Traveling a little farther, the Cranberry Harvest Celebration in Wareham takes place Oct. 11 and 12 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Along with music, crafters, and games, the CHC also boasts cranberry-bog tours and – get this – helicopter rides! And another sweet surprise, admission is only $2.

For something not too new, but definitely different, King Richard's Faire in Carver may be just the ticket. This 16th-century English Renaissance marketplace-themed festival includes jugglers, dancers, jousting knights on horseback, mimes, and musicians. Admission is $25. This event takes place every weekend through Oct. 19, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

So get out there and make the most out of autumn in New England, because with winter right around the corner, outdoor activities will soon become scarce.

Adventures of the intellect

By Jeremy Dusseault

Why?

It's a legitimate question, an expansive question, one leading to endless conclusions.

In this case the question is, "Why, Dr. Ian Williams, do you do what you do?"

The answers, it turns out, are many.

Williams has been teaching in the English department here at Fitchburg State College for four years now, and says he truly can't complain.

His stay here has been a successful one, and he is grateful for the versatility, or range, he is afforded at Fitchburg State College.

"It's great - I've got a big range of courses," Williams said in a recent interview.

"At other institutions you'll teach the same two courses for the rest of your life. But I can teach everything from the early part of American literature, to writing poetry, to stage movement or theater courses. I can teach just about anything."

Williams, 29, said he realizes that true education does not come from the recitation of mundane facts or the laborious memorization of trivial data.

Instead, he leads expeditious journeys into the heart of the particular subject matter.

His classrooms hold an air of informality, while retaining the respect any legitimate college professor deserves.

A native of Toronto, Canada, Williams is one of two siblings raised in what he describes as a loving family.

To this day he visits his hometown on every major holiday, without exception or deviation.

A prolific poet, Williams finds words to describe what he loves about the art.

"I think part of it is the expressive quality of it, getting something from the inside of you to the outside, from your internal thoughts to paper," he said.

"The other part of it is just making something beautiful, crafting something and living with something inside of you for a while."

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Fear follows scientific progress

By David Schweitzer

It's 17 miles long and cost around $9 billion. Scientists have been working on it for 15 years. It's in an underground lair between France and Switzerland.

It's known as the Large Hadron Collider, and some people believe it may cause the end of the world.

The Large Hadron Collider could possibly be one of the greatest achievements in scientific history.

It's the world's largest particle accelerator, and it will allow scientists to test theories about the formation of the universe and how it works.

What the LHC will do is recreate what happened immediately following the Big Bang.

Among some scientists and skeptics, however, there is fear that this machine could cause the end of the world. They fear that the machine could create a black hole and devour the world.

In fact, there have been legal actions in the U.S. and Europe to stop the machine from operating. The scientists who have worked on it have publicly stated that there is no substance to the claims.

Here at FSC, students seem to side with the majority of scientists.

"I think it's worth the risk," said Robert Bartolome, a senior at FSC. "I seriously don't think they'd be able to create a black hole that would cause the end of the world. It sounds like an amazing achievement if they can pull it off."

As for the cost of the project, he said, "If they're spending that much, they'd better get something out of it. There's a lot more that the money could be going toward, but the possibility of them finding something amazing could be worth it. If they're going to spend it then they'd better make sure they succeed."

On Sept. 10, the accelerator was fired up for the first time. The first tests involved sending particles around the 17-mile-long tunnel. In the coming months they plan on sending particles in opposite directions and have them smash into each other.

Oct. 21 is the first big test. They hope to find the Higgs Boson particle, also known as the "God particle," which would help explain why mass has weight. The particle has never been found before.

Another local resident and science enthusiast, Stephen Moore, hopes the experiment succeeds. "I don't know if they'll be able to achieve what they want, but it will definitely help get them there. This is the next step to take and whether it was worth all the money and time…I don't know, but it is important."

What about the possibility of the world being destroyed in the experiment?

"Ten years ago, when people were trying to get absolute zero, they were worried about the same thing and we're still here," Moore said. "There's the concern, but it's such a small possibility of happening that we don't have anything to worry about."

"The thing is, the machine really isn't all that different than other particle accelerators," Moore said.

"It's much larger but other than that, it's still the same. We're just giving all these atoms and particles more space to collide together. Also, from my understanding, atoms are colliding like this all the time, so for it to actual cause a black hole that can sustain itself is just too minimal."

FSC FILE PHOTO

Students line up to buy lunch at the Commuter Café.

Commuter Café can take a big bite out of budget

By Dan Quin

Do you feel like you spend way too much money at the Commuter Café?

Don't worry - you are not the only one. Lots of students spend a small fortune on food, drinks, and snacks at the Commuter Café each semester, when with a little planning they could find inexpensive alternatives.

"I spend $5 to $6 a day in the Commuter Café," says Nate Cormier of Fitchburg. This can add up to more than $350 each semester.

Some commuter students, however, have cut the cost of lunch by bringing their own. Alesha Wockenfuss of Leominster comes armed every day with a lunch of a sandwich, grapes, vitamin water, and pita chips.

"I think I save a lot of money bringing my own lunch every day," says Wockenfuss. "I save about $20 a week."

Wockenfuss says she puts the money she saves on lunch to good use: "That is now my gas money for the week."

Of course, Wockenfuss's homemade lunches aren't free – she has to buy the groceries to make them. But when you do the math, it's clear that she still comes out ahead. At the Commuter Café, a simple deli sandwich costs $4.50. How does this compare to what you would pay if you made your own?

Let's say a student wants to have a turkey sandwich every day. A loaf of bread will cost about $1.59. A pound of turkey will cost about $3.20, depending on where you do your grocery shopping. This adds up to a total of $4.79.

These goods will yield a week's worth of turkey sandwiches, for a total of only 29 cents more than a single deli sandwich at the Commuter Café.

Of course, that's not to say the Commuter Café is a bad place to have lunch.

It is a great place to grab a burger or a snack on the run before class. It also offers a break from the everyday foods at home – but buying food there can be an occasional indulgence, rather than a daily habit.

Students sound off on Conlon overhaul

By Stephen Troy

Ever since the semester began, communications students have had to work through a steady background noise of drilling and pounding. While most agree that it was time to make improvements, many wonder why these improvements have to be made during classes.

The Conlon Industrial Arts building is being renovated. The second-floor IT department is nearly finished, and the faculty offices are under construction. They also plan to redo the lobby.

"We're doing chunks here and there," explained Eric Hansen, director of Capital Planning and Maintenance. "We tried to finish the demolition phase before students got here, but it didn't quite pan out."

One of the foremen on the construction team said, "We're pretty much on schedule. We're finished with demolition, now we're doing rough framing and we'll be starting electric soon."

He said he has not had complaints from students or faculty about the construction or the noise. "We try to keep noise and dust to a minimum," he said. "There have been no major complications."

Wayne Munson, a professor in the communications department, said he has experienced only small problems related to the construction. "It's not as much as I expected," he said. "The noise hasn't been persistent."

FSC FILE PHOTO

Renovations to the Conlon Industrial Arts Building have made it a noisy semester for some students.

Justin Marra, a student in communications classes such as Dr. Munson's, said he had problems concentrating when the semester began. "It doesn't make any sense why they would do it now," Marra said. "Give them a little more pay for times other than class hours."

Work crews do receive weekly schedules of when classes are going to be held, so that they can keep the disturbance of students to a minimum.

Hansen said that it was true that workers would have to be paid more for late hours.

"We have classes here until 10 at night," he said. "So it doesn't make much sense to push the working hours back. Paying for night or weekend work does cost premium money." He did say that when something was especially noisy or problematic, they would have workers come in late or on weekends.

It is also difficult for FSC to schedule renovations in the first place. "We have a lot on the docket," said Hansen. "We clearly have an old campus."

In addition to renovating Conlon Industrial Arts, the Facilities and Maintenance group is working on Percival, Anthony, Sanders, and Edgerly.

Munson said he is pleasantly surprised that the construction is happening, despite some inconvenience.

"We were on committees all last year discussing what needed to be done," he said. "We would all say, 'Oh, it's never going to happen, we'll be retired by the time they change anything.'"

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Celebrating art in motion

By Greg Gingold

Fitchburg State College is proud to showcase many talented artists on the second floor of the Hammond Building.

It seems, though, that Fitchburg is just one of many stops along Anne Lilly's tour to fame and stardom.

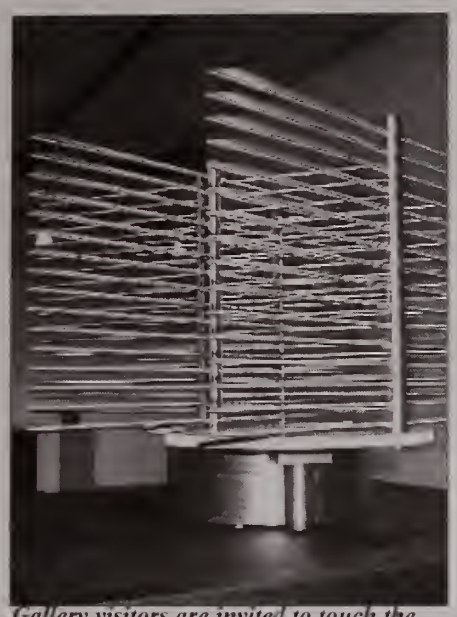
An exhibition of Lilly's kinetic sculpture is on view through Oct. 28 in the Campus Center Art Gallery.

Her work consists of metal bases, gears, and thin metal cylinders, combined together to produce co-active movement.

The sculptures are presented on columns and the viewers are encouraged to gently touch and play with them, to witness the flowing machine display in action.

"The proximity of the elements as they move past each other might worry the viewers who think that they are going to collide," Lilly said in a recent telephone interview.

She explains that the anticipation of collision is enhanced by the fact that the art produces no sound as it moves.



Gallery visitors are invited to touch the kinetic sculptures of Anne Lilly.

Lilly has nine pieces on display in the gallery, all titled with a certain reference to visual flow. They include "There's a Certain Slant of Light," "Parting," "Open Cloister," and "Conversation with Glenn Gould." The Massachusetts-based artist says she hand crafts each metal piece, practically from scratch.

"I just buy raw links of stainless steel and then I cut it and shape it, make the internal components to hold everything together in the right direction," Lilly says.

"Basically everything is coming off of linear stock."

How does she turn the metal into a piece of art?

She explains that she has the metal shipped to her in the exact shape, as far as diameter and width, that she wants the base of the piece to be.

The base is cut off and saved until the top half is all ready to be welded back on to it.

Lilly then melts and molds these metals from complete raw material and makes the art that can be seen on display on the second floor of the Hammond Building.

Splendid news about comics

By Greg Gingold

It's a good month for fans of Harvey Pekar, author of the famed comic book and movie "American Splendor."

Pekar is releasing the next issue of "American Splendor," the fifth in a series that started in June 2008, in his newest volume published by Vertigo Comics.

It was more than 30 years ago that Pekar published his first autobiographical comic book, which he titled "American Splendor," in the hope that he could combine his love for the truth of real life and his love for comics. Then, in 2003, a movie was made about Pekar's life and he was finally able to retire from being a file clerk.

Since 2003, "I've been doing graphic novels, maybe four books a year, and I don't want them all to be 'American Splendor'," Pekar said in a recent interview.

"Some publishers have given me a shot at writing stuff that's like historical or biographical, as opposed to autobiographical. Autobiographical is what people have come to expect from me."

In 2005, DC Comics illustrator Dean Haspiel teamed up with Pekar to create an autobiographical graphic novel called "The Quitter," which details Pekar's childhood and life up until he started writing the famed comic book. "That was probably the best publicity of any book, I have ever got," says Pekar.

After the success of "The Quitter," Pekar was offered publications for graphic novels all over the comic-book charts. They were looking for Pekar to channel his more serious yet quirky side to write non-fiction stories about "Michael Malice, Senator McCarthy, the beatniks, the history of the Middle East, the struggle between conservatism and liberalism, modern-day Macedonia," says Pekar.

Pekar stresses that he wants to concentrate on subjects that hold great personal and political interest for him.

In his political graphic novel "Macedonia: What does it take to stop a war," Pekar details the experience of peace-studies student Heather Roberson.

"There is no book in the United States that gives you the information… about the struggles in Macedonia … like my book can," says Pekar. He and Roberson wanted to tell the story that no other media news group would tell.

Pekar was most excited about his upcoming graphic novel about the beatniks, which he projects will be released this winter.

"It's the history of the Beat Generation," Pekar says. "I focus mainly on Jack Kerouac and Allen Ginsberg, and I talk a lot about other artists that were involved in the movement."

In the beatnik graphic novel, Pekar will describe the transformation from the beatniks to the hippies.

Forget 'Sarah'

By Greg Gingold

2.5 stars out of 4

The heartbreaking comedy is always held in high regard. Somehow it seems the same story is told over and over again. Everyone tells it their own way, with their own slant, and from their own special perspective on the world. Still, it's the same story.

Jason Segel (costar of "Knocked Up") has written and starred in his own heartbreaking love story , "Forgetting Sarah Marshall."

This "romantic comedy" may be grouped with a lot of recent titles that go by the same genre name , all placed in the movie bin of "I want to kill myself, but I don't want to look that much like a loser so instead I'll just make fun of it."

Segel and director Nicholas Stoller (writer of "Fun With Dick and Jane") joined hands to completely and utterly humiliate the main character, Peter Bretter, from the beginning to the end of this sad, sad, sad film.

I say sad because, if this movie were played as a drama with the exact same cast, it would have felt as uncomfortable and agitating as watching a naked man playing with a vampire puppet (the last scene of the movie).

As the movie begins, recently broken-up bachelor Peter Bretter is going out of his mind. He is depressed and doing nothing with his life. Feeling useless at his job, where he mixes sound for a popular TV show that stars his ex-girl friend, all he wants is to hide from the world.

On a suggestion from his best friend, he decides to take a vacation. Conflict arises when his ex-girlfriend, whom he was trying to "forget" about, is staying in the room *next* to his, at the exact same hotel on the exact same island. A new love interest walks into his life to compete with his past girlfriend just at the time when Bretter is at his lowest.

Along with trying to win over the new girl's heart, he is also conflicted with competing for his ex-girlfriend with a British rock star named Alduos.

Genital jokes, vampire musicals and near-death experiences cloud the audience's perception as they forget they are watching a man whose pride is constantly beaten with a wooden stick throughout this wildly funny flick.

The "Forgetting Sarah Marshall" three-DVD package was just released Sept. 30, unrated and loaded with never-before-seen footage (probably more of Segal's lower half) and commentary by the writer, director and several co-stars.

Athletes recognized

Fitchburg State College senior Phil McCormack (Fitchburg, Mass./Fitchburg) and sophomore Taylor Van Ahnen (Seekonk, Mass./Seekonk) earned Player of the Week honors in their respective sports as selected by conference officials. McCormack earns his second conference nomination and his first Runner of the Week honor after leading the Fitchburg State men's cross country team to a second place finish at the Keene State Invitational.

Van Ahnen collects her first collegiate Goalkeeper of the Week accolade after posting 26 saves and a pair of shutouts in Fitchburg State's 2-0 week.

Believers count 4 years to Doomsday

By Robert Langevin III

Worried about Armageddon? The Apocalypse? The end of the world in general?

Well, mark your calendars: Dec. 21, 2012 is the day that the Mayan long-count calendar finally ends its 5,126-year run. For many scholars and believers in the Mayan calculation of time, this may mark the end of life on this planet as we know it.

Ever since civilization's beginning, people have been predicting its end – from the drug-induced hallucinations made by Greek and Roman oracles, to apocalyptic revelations foretold in the Bible, and even the mystic foresight of Nostradamus.

Out of all the predictions ever made by soothsayers, oracles or prophets, the Mayan long-count calendar is the only one to give a specific date for the end. And current events, many say, make that date seem believable.

"You turn on Fox or CNN news, you're constantly seeing possibilities of terrorism, nuclear attack, plagues of new disease. We seem to be going through an apocalyptic process," says Daniel Pinchbeck, author of "2012: The Return of Quetzalcoatl."

It is hard to deny the world seems to be in a period of global turmoil and change, agrees FSC student Ryan Belcher, a believer in the 2012 prophesy. "Everyone thinks that we are going down the drain as a society and that 2012 will be the time that it will all break loose."

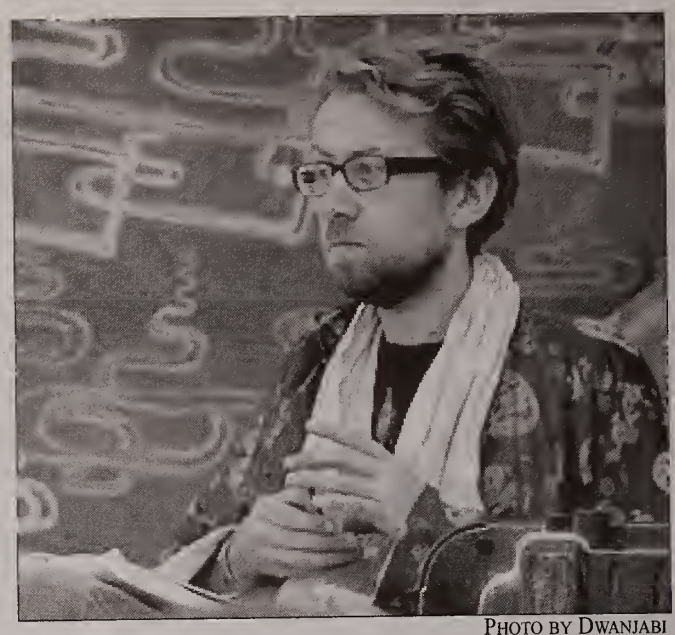


Photo by Dwanjabi

Author Daniel Pinchbeck describes his vision for the future in his book "2012: The Return of Quetzalcoatl."

The theory of global change is supported by astronomers, according to the History Channel's broadcast "Doomsday 2012: The End of Days": "Modern astronomers concur with the ancient Mayans that on Dec. 21, 2012, the Earth will be in exact alignment with the sun and the Milky Way galaxy, and that only happens once every 25,800 years."

Will this alignment bring about pole reversal, an extraterrestrial visit, natural or man-made disaster? Most 2012 believers have their own theories, but they agree that this planet can expect a major change in its future.

Some 2012 supporters have an entirely different, more optimistic belief in what may happen. They see it as a time of rebirth – a new beginning. This view is shared by Belcher, who says, "Personally, I think it is going to be a big change, one that will ultimately be for the better."

Many archeologists and historians who have studied the Mayans think that the calendar's ending most likely predicts a change that has been happening and will continue happening, even after 2012.

"There's no question that things are going to change," says Bruce Scofield, a graduate student in geosciences at the University of Massachusett, Amherst."Pinpointing them on a single day is not very realistic… Historians will look back and say it was a very profound time. Humanity had to come to terms with itself.

"How do we all live together? How do we treat out planet? How are we going to create our future?"

The last question, many say, may be the most important of all.

Stooges offer classic reasons to laugh

By Thomas Chalifour

The Hammond Campus Center frequently plays host to diverse and culturally significant film screenings.

But for one night in October, that distinguished tradition will be given a smack on the head and poke in the eyes.

The first-ever Stoogefest film festival, offering over two hours of classic "Three Stooges" short films, will be held at 7 p.m. on October 15 in the Ellis White Lecture Hall.

The event is free and open to all students.

"I'm looking forward to it," said Matt Maguire, who planned the event as a program for Aubuchon Hall.

"The Three Stooges are the first thing that comes to my mind when I think of classic comedy."

The Three Stooges – featuring mainstays Moe Howard, Larry Fine and Curly Howard – are best remembered as the defining comedy team of early film.

Combining slapstick humor, clever writing and outrageous storylines, the Stooges made over 200 short and feature-length films.

The fun does not end with the movies.

Maguire is encouraging fans of the Three Stooges to show up dressed as the iconic trio, with prizes being awarded to the best Moe, Larry and Curly.

Popcorn will also be served.

In addition, guest speaker Zak Lee, a film professor here at FSC, will open the screening with a brief lecture about the Stooges, their importance and their timelessness.

"The Three Stooges are the first thing that comes to my mind when I think of classic comedy."
- Matt Maguire

"I'm very excited to have Zak on board," said Maguire.

"Any film student will tell you that Zak is an excellent speaker. I'm looking forward to what he'll say for Stoogefest."

The timeless appeal of the Three Stooges humor has left an indelible mark on American culture.

Three Stooges merchandise, DVDs, and other collectables can still be found in stores. Pop culture still refers to the Three Stooges' influence in television, film, music, and games.

"I'm looking forward to filling the theater full of people of all ages," said Maguire.

"It's wonderful that a comedy trio from the late 1930s can still attract such a wide range of audience today."

While the lineup of films is still being determined, Maguire promises a diverse look at the prime years of the Stooges' original lineup.

"No Shemp [films]," Maguire says of fan favorite Shemp Howard, who joined the team in their later years. "Sorry."

Stoogefest is a residence-hall program and is being sponsored by FSC Campus Living and the FSC Filmmaker's Society.

Sudoku

(Answers from previous issue)

5	6	2	4	3	8	7	9	1
9	4	8	7	1	5	6	2	3
1	7	3	9	6	2	4	5	8
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8	3	5	6	9	1	2	4	7
7	9	4	2	5	3	1	8	6
4	8	6	5	2	7	3	1	9
2	1	7	3	8	9	5	6	4
3	5	9	1	4	6	8	7	2

(Answers will appear in next issue)

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